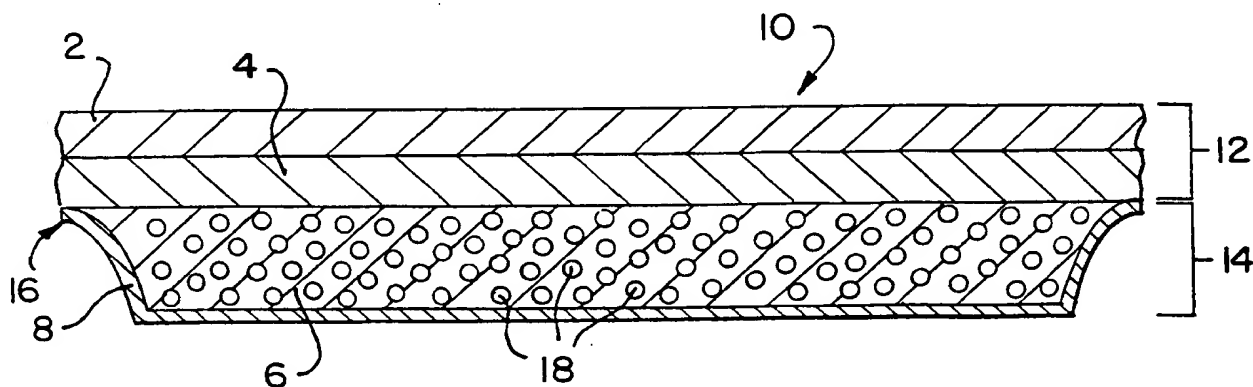




## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> : <b>A61F 13/46</b>	<b>A1</b>	(11) International Publication Number: <b>WO 99/63925</b> (43) International Publication Date: 16 December 1999 (16.12.99)
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/13174</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 8 June 1999 (08.06.99)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 60/088,454 8 June 1998 (08.06.98) US</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BUCKEYE TECHNOLOGIES INC. [US/US]; 1001 Tillman Street, Memphis, TN 38112 (US).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): WESTPHAL, James [US/US]; Memphis, TN (US). ERSPAMER, John, P. [US/US]; 3716 Oak Bark Lane, Bartlett, TN 38139 (US). LI, S., K., Lawrence [CA/CA]; 719 Juniper Place, Delta, British Columbia (CA).</p> <p>(74) Agents: SULLIVAN, Robert, C., Jr. et al.; Darby &amp; Darby P.C., 805 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022-7513 (US).</p>	<p>(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p><b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i></p>	

(54) Title: UNITARY ABSORBENT STRUCTURE CONTAINING SUPERABSORBENT POLYMER



## (57) Abstract

Disclosed is a unitary absorbent structure (10), including an upper fibrous layer (12) having a liquid acquisition zone (2) extending to one surface, and a liquid distribution zone (4) extending to the other surface. A lower fibrous liquid storage layer (14) is in liquid communication with the distribution zone surface of the upper layer. The storage layer includes SAP particles (18). A containment layer (8) surrounds the storage layer and extends to the outer edges of the structure. The containment layer contains the fibers (6), and SAP particles of the storage layer against the distribution zone surface of the upper layer.